

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. J. RES. 96

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 13, 1997

Received

JOINT RESOLUTION

Granting the consent and approval of Congress for the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to amend the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

Whereas the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia have adopted amendments to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Reg-

ulation Compact relating to public hearing requirements and empowering transit police officers to carry weapons issued by WMATA while in an off-duty status, consistent with limitations imposed by the applicable political subdivision; and

Whereas the Congress has reviewed such amendments and is willing to consent to such amendments: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives*
 2 *of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 That consent of Congress is hereby given to the amend-
 4 ments of the State of Maryland (Chapter 489, 1996 Laws
 5 of the Maryland General Assembly and Chapters 91 and
 6 699, 1997 Laws of the Maryland General Assembly), the
 7 amendments of the Commonwealth of Virginia (Chapter
 8 150, 1995 Acts of Assembly of Virginia), and the amend-
 9 ments of the District of Columbia (D.C. Law 11–443) to
 10 sections 62 and 76 of title III of the Washington Metro-
 11 politan Area Transit Regulation Compact. Such amend-
 12 ments are as follows:

13 (1) Section 62(a) is amended to read as follows:

14 “(a) The Board shall not raise any fare or rate, nor
 15 implement a major service reduction, except after holding
 16 a public hearing with respect thereto.”.

17 (2) Section 62(c) is amended to read as follows:

18 “(c) The Board shall give at least fifteen days’ notice
 19 for all public hearings. The notice shall be given by publi-

1 cation in a newspaper of daily circulation throughout the
2 Transit Zone and such notice shall be published once a
3 week for two successive weeks. The notice period shall
4 start with the first day of publication. Notices of public
5 hearings shall be posted in accordance with regulations
6 promulgated by the Board.”.

7 (3) Section 76(b) is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) A member of the Metro Transit Police shall have
9 the same powers, including the power of arrest, and shall
10 be subject to the same limitations, including regulatory
11 limitations, in the performance of his duties as a member
12 of the duly constituted police force of the political subdivi-
13 sion in which the Metro Transit Police member is engaged
14 in the performance of his duties. A member of the Metro
15 Transit Police is authorized to carry and use only such
16 weapons, including handguns, as are issued by the Author-
17 ity. A member of the Metro Transit Police is subject to
18 such additional limitations in the use of weapons as are
19 imposed on the duly constituted police force for the politi-
20 cal subdivision in which he is engaged in the performance
21 of his duties.”.

22 (4) Section 76(e) is amended to read as follows:

23 “(e) The Authority shall have the power to adopt
24 rules and regulations for the safe, convenient, and orderly
25 use of the transit facilities owned, controlled, or operated

1 by the Authority, including the payment and the manner
2 of the payment of fares or charges therefor, the protection
3 of the transit facilities, the control of traffic and parking
4 upon the transit facilities, and the safety and protection
5 of the riding public. In the event that any such rules and
6 regulations contravene the laws, ordinances, rules, or reg-
7 ulations of a signatory or any political subdivision thereof
8 which are existing or subsequently enacted, these laws, or-
9 dinances, rules, or regulations of the signatory or the po-
10 litical subdivision shall apply and the conflicting rule or
11 regulation, or portion thereof, of the Authority shall be
12 void within the jurisdiction of that signatory or political
13 subdivision. In all other respects, the rules and regulations
14 of the Authority shall be uniform throughout the Transit
15 Zone. The rules or regulations established under this sub-
16 section shall be adopted by the Board following public
17 hearings held in accordance with section 62(c) and (d) of
18 this Compact. The final regulation shall be published in
19 a newspaper of general circulation within the Zone at least
20 15 days before its effective date. Any person violating any
21 rule or regulation of the Authority shall be subject to ar-
22 rest and, upon conviction by a court of competent jurisdic-
23 tion, shall pay a fine of not more than two hundred fifty
24 dollars (\$250) and costs. Criminal violations of any rule
25 or regulation of the Authority shall be prosecuted by the

1 signatory or political subdivision in which the violation oc-
2 curred, in the same manner by which violations of law,
3 ordinances, rules, and regulations of the signatory or polit-
4 ical subdivisions are prosecuted.”.

Passed the House of Representatives November 12,
1997.

Attest:

ROBIN H. CARLE,
Clerk.